

Good evening. I am honoured to be here to share the stage with the people receiving awards tonight, officers and civilians, who have served our community so well. Congratulations to each of the people being recognized tonight.

The last time I talked at this event I was here to introduce my daughter, Captain Kim Campbell. Many of you have asked about her so let me give you a brief update. She is currently stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas. She is still flying the A-10 Warthog, but no one is shooting at her. She is testing all the upgrades necessary to extend the life of the A-10 to 2015 and the new weapons it will carry. Basically she is blowing things up for fun.

I am honored to speak to an audience full of public servants. One of my core values I picked up at the Air Force Academy is "Service Above Self." It is great to be with people who think the same way. I thank you for your service to our community and your commitment to the belief that there are some things that are more important than yourself.

Every time I attend a SJPD graduation and watch the new officers pledge to follow the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, I am struck by how high a standard our officers have to live by. We have extraordinary expectations from our officers.

The first time I heard the Code of Ethics, I thought these officers have to be super-humans to meet those standards. But I have discovered over the past few years that our officers are just ordinary people doing extraordinary work. Things that are impossible for most people are just another day at the office for our SJPD officers.

Let me share just a part of it:

LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property,

To protect the innocent against deception,

The weak against oppression or intimidation,

And the peaceful against violence or disorder,

And to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty,

equality and justice.

And that's just the beginning. Later on it gets more difficult:

I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

On Cinco de Mayo I had a chance to see our officers and their Code of Ethics in action. You may have noticed the Mercury News headline "Safe Cinco De Mayo" That was a terrific thing to read. Our command staff did a great job of planning and implementation, but it was our officers on the line that took the risks and made it happen. They did a difficult job and I want to thank them.

I want to thank the officers who had beer bottles thrown at them and still enforced the law courteously and appropriately.

I want to thank the officers who were accused of being racists for diverting traffic at King and Story roads and still enforced the law courteously and appropriately.

I want to thank the officers who were subjected to verbal obscenities and still enforced the law courteously and appropriately.

I want all of our officers to be well trained, well equipped, well paid and professional in all that they do. Their Code of Ethics sets that standard.

Having been to the Air Force Academy and served time in the Air Force, I know that not every officer is perfect all the time and there are some that do not measure up to our standards. I also know that the people who can most effectively deal with poor performing officers are in the SJPd.

That's why I do not support establishing a civilian review board. The SJPd can and will take care of its problems better than any outside person or group. That is the mark of professional department. That's why we have the best police department in the country and the safest big city in the country. On behalf of the people of San Jose, I thank all of you for that fact.

In closing, I want to give special thanks to the men and women who work for the City who have been called to active duty in the War on Terror. Many of them are members of the SJPd. Collectively they have served hundreds of tours of duty. Thanks for helping to keep us free and safe.

And to the rest of us, let's remember . . .

It is the Veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Veteran, not the protester, who has given us freedom of assembly.
It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.

And it is the police officer who has given us safety on the streets of San Jose.

God Bless our Veterans.

God Bless our police officers.

Thank you for your service.